

The Blue Ribbon Schools award was created in 1982 to recognize schools where students attain and maintain high academic standards and are pushed to improve themselves and further their dedication to scholastic achievement. This award shows that Bluewater Elementary School is serving its students well and helping them make strides forward in their academic careers.

Schools like Bluewater Elementary achieve such great distinctions because of the hard work and dedication of the teachers, staff, and administration. Their students also deserve to be commended for fully taking advantage of all of the opportunities provided to them by their exceptional staff. Bluewater Elementary School is a model for the progress other schools throughout the nation should strive to achieve.

I am honored to have Blue Ribbon Schools like Bluewater Elementary School in my district. I commend their achievement and wish them luck in the continuing their academic achievement.

HONORING MIKE NURY

HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. RADANOVICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the 2009 San Joaquin Winegrowers Association 7th Annual San Joaquin Valley Wine & Grape Industry Forum. The luncheon will be held in Fresno, California on Friday, November 20, 2009.

Mr. Mike Nury came to the United States in November 1945 to attend American International University in Springfield, Massachusetts. In 1946 he was drafted into the United States Army and served during the Korean War. Upon completion of his military career, he arrived in California and attended the University of California, Berkeley. He later transferred to the University of California, Davis where he earned a bachelor of science and master of science degree in food science in 1952. In 1953, Mr. Nury started his career with Vie-Del Company, a Fresno, California based winery, as a research chemist. His role at the winery had a tremendous impact on the company, as well as the industry as a whole. He played a major role in developing an improved method of concentrating grape flavors by adjusting the temperature and time used to concentrate the grapes. The outcomes were significant. The new concentrate had no ethanol, which was important for those unable to metabolize ethanol, thus eliminating ethanol taxes on the original concentrate. It also weighed less, reducing shipping costs, and the new concentrate made it possible to add wine flavor to more products.

In 1972, Mr. Nury was named President of the Vie-Del, and in 1990 the Nury family purchased the controlling interest in Vie-Del from Joseph E. Seagram & Sons. Since then, the company has continued to grow, producing millions of gallons of concentrate per year. Mr. Nury has served as president and owner, and after his semi-retirement, he served as chairman of the board. His family has also taken an interest in the wine industry. Two of his

three daughters, Dianne and Roxanne, have spent many years with the company and his brother, Fred, taught Enology at California State University, Fresno and later worked for Seagram in the Bay Area. Mr. Nury is only one of three winemakers to have served as president of the Wine Institute and the American Society of Enology and Viticulture. He has also played an active role with the Fresno Rotary for over thirty-five years, served as a member of the Fresno Community Hospital Foundation Board and Chairman of the Finance Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate Mike Nury upon being honored with the "Lifetime Achievement Award." I invite my colleagues to join me in wishing Mr. Nury many years of continued success.

OPPOSITION TO THE STUPAK AMENDMENT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I have witnessed the horror of the choice between a back alley abortion and a forced marriage to avoid disgrace. These were the realities women faced prior to 1973. My fear is that if this harmful Stupak/Pitts language is signed into law, we will revert back to those dark times.

Until now, for over 30 years we lived in this House in peaceful coexistence, the pros and the cons getting together on the fact that the Hyde amendment said no federal money can be spent. We on our side simply had the law.

Critical to this debate is to break down the facts. The opposition claims that the Stupak/Pitts Amendment codifies current law. This is grossly incorrect.

Stupak-Pitts goes far beyond current law by placing unprecedented restrictions on individuals' use of their own private dollars. The Hyde Amendment does not apply to private funding nor does it apply to administrative costs. It has only placed limits on direct federal appropriations being used to fund abortion benefits. The Stupak Amendment expands the Hyde prohibitions on the use of Federal funds for an abortion benefit to include "any part of the costs of any health plan that includes coverage of abortion."

The Hyde Amendment does not include similar, far-reaching language. Seventeen States currently provide abortion coverage in Medicaid with separate State funding.

The opposition claims that this amendment will not change current insurance plans for women. This is blatantly wrong.

A report by health policy experts at the George Washington University School of Public Health concludes that the Stupak Amendment "will have an industry-wide effect, eliminating coverage of medically indicated abortions over time for all women, not only those whose coverage is derived through a health insurance exchange."

The opposition claims that the segregation of funding under the House bill is an accounting sham. This is blatantly false.

In the Capps Amendment, the segregation of funding piece is based on the current model the Federal Government uses to pay for abor-

tions currently permitted in Medicaid. States are permitted to use their own funding to provide additional abortion coverage under Medicaid.

For me, and for many of my colleagues, it means 30 or 40 years of our life is being cancelled out with this amendment.

I am afraid that we are driving young women, poor women, all women of child-bearing age back to the back alley, and I dread to see that day.

COMMENDING RAPIDES PARISH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT, GARY JONES

HON. RODNEY ALEXANDER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with pride to commend Rapides Parish School District Superintendent, Gary Jones, for his contributions to local education, specifically his plans to launch Aiken cyberacademy this spring, which will revolutionize learning options available to our students.

This virtual academy is modeled similarly to an online charter school in that it will be interactive and self-paced. Since students will be registered in the district system, Aiken will differ from online charter schools since students will be able to take other courses, as well as join extracurricular activities by attending a regular school.

As our nation's educators continue to look for ways to improve and strengthen education in our country, I believe this is an innovative alternative for students who have not thrived in the traditional classroom. In addition, this plan will provide more choices for home-schooled children.

To keep our communities on the cutting edge of educational advancements, I am proud of Gary Jones for ensuring such a creative option is available to help prepare our students. Please join me in honoring him for his work on behalf of our young students.

PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS IN HEALTH CARE REFORM

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, we came to work this year to deliver affordable, high-quality health care to all Americans. Instead of offering the possibility of health care to all Americans, some want to deny essential health care—reproductive health care—to women.

For politicians to intrude on a woman or couple's most personal and painful decisions is cynical and wrong. Nobody in America has the right to use government to impose their religious beliefs on someone else. Yet the Stupak-Pitts amendment would do just that.

The Stupak-Pitts amendment adopted by this House does not—does not—preserve the status quo on abortion. The Stupak-Pitts amendment tells millions of middle-class